

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

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**WHITE HOUSE CLIMATE TASK FORCE MEMBER PAULA BROOKS TO CONDUCT
“RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE” MEETINGS WEDNESDAY IN TOLEDO**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Franklin County Commissioner [Paula Brooks](#), Ohio’s sole member of the bipartisan [White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience](#), will be in Toledo Wednesday for the latest stop in her statewide “Resilience Roundtable” outreach visits. She will seek input and review efforts underway across the region to prepare for and make communities more resilient to climate impacts.

First, senior corporate sustainability officers at the Owens Corning Worldwide Headquarters, the world’s largest fiberglass manufacturer, will meet with Commissioner Brooks Wednesday morning.

“I am particularly interested in hearing from this important corporate partner in resilience,” she said.

Following the briefing, Commissioner Brooks, who co-chairs the Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee and Green Government Initiative for the National Association of Counties, will engage with environmental sustainability and resiliency experts from throughout the region, regarding Lucas County’s robust efforts to deal with climate challenges.

Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak will host Commissioner Brooks for an expert panel discussion at the National Museum of the Great Lakes at 11 a.m. The University of Toledo’s College of Engineering will convene its panel of academic experts later in the day, at 4 p.m., at the university’s Nitschke Hall.

She will hear about the Toledo Region’s efforts to mitigate the spread of large, toxic blue-green algal blooms, which have become prevalent throughout Lake Erie’s western basin. Lake Erie provides drinking water for more than 11 million people, including more than 3 million Ohioans. Tourism and sport fishing represent \$11.5 billion of the region’s economy and are tied intrinsically to Lake Erie’s water quality.

“In addition to the multi-billion dollar tourism industry, Northwest Ohio also has a rich agricultural industry, from Campbell’s Soup headquartered in nearby Napoleon, to the acres of strawberry fields in Holland,” Commissioner Brooks said. “So many aspects of our state’s food system security are dependent on fresh, clean water from Lake Erie.”

Wednesday’s “Resilience Roundtables” mirror a pair of the commissioner’s outreach visits to Cincinnati and Cleveland earlier this summer.

“Each stop so far has been very informative. I also recognize that Toledo and Northwest Ohio communities face unique challenges in increasing resilience to climate impacts on our state’s beautiful North Shore,” Commissioner Brooks said. “I am eager to hear about approaches, being spurred on by both the public and private sectors, as well as academia, to ensure a safe, secure environment for our future generations.”

See agenda below

FULL AGENDA (Events open to the press)

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

11 a.m. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE, presented by the Board of Lucas County Commissioners and The Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission

National Museum of the Great Lakes (1701 Front St., Toledo, OH 43605)

Welcome: Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak and James Lundgren, Director of Operations, *The National Museum of the Great Lakes*

11:15 a.m. Remarks: Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks, Member, *White House Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience*

Presentations: Ashlee Grace, Project Manager for Great Lakes Adaptation Assessment for Cities, *University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute*; Sarah Orlando, Ohio Clean Marinas Coordinator, *Ohio Sea Grant College Program*; and Amy Samples, Green Marina Education and Outreach Project Coordinator, *Michigan Sea Grant College Program*

Noon Break for Lunch

After Lunch Roundtable

Moderator: Karl Parker, President and CEO, *Parker Family of Businesses*

Additional Panelists:

Sandy Bihn, Vice President, *Lake Erie Improvement Association*

Lee Geisse, Regional Program Manager, *Labor Climate Project in Ohio*

Melissa Greene, Sustainability Conservationist, *Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District*

Tim Murphy, Commissioner, *City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services*

Jane Ruvolo, Congressional Staff Assistant, *Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur*

Dave Spangler, Charter Boat Captain and At-Large Member, *Lake Erie Improvement Association*

1:30 p.m. Closing remarks followed by a tour the National Museum of the Great Lakes

4 p.m. ROUNDTABLE ON RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE IMPACTS, presented by the University of Toledo

Nitschke Hall (1610 N. Westwood Ave., Toledo, OH 43607), SSOE Conference Room

Moderator: Commissioner Paula Brooks

University of Toledo Faculty Panelists:

Dr. Defne Apul, Associate Professor, Sustainability Engineering Lab, *Dept. of Civil Engineering*

Dr. Scott Heckathorn, Associate Professor and Lead Investigator, Plant and Algal Ecological Physiology and Biochemistry Laboratory, *Dept. of Environmental Sciences*

Dr. Sanjay Khare, Associate Professor, *Dept. of Physics and Astronomy*

Dr. Andy Jorgensen, Associate Professor and Director of General Chemistry, *Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Media may contact Commissioner Brooks' staffers Brook Kohn, Policy Manager, at (614) 323-1940, or Bart Logan, Community Relations Manager, at (614) 634-0602 for more information about the events.

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